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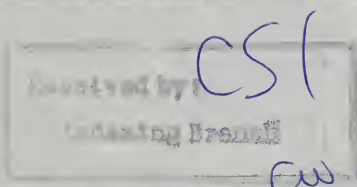
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U.S. National
Arboretum

Visitor Guide



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Program Aid 309
Revised March 1997



About the Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum is a U.S. Department of Agriculture research and education facility and a living museum. It is dedicated to serving the public and improving our environment by developing and promoting improved floral and landscape plants and new technologies through scientific research, educational programs, display gardens, and germplasm conservation. It is a national center for public education that welcomes visitors in a stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment.



As the in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Service has a mission to:

Provide access to agricultural information and develop new knowledge and technology needed to solve technical agricultural problems of broad scope and high national priority to ensure adequate availability of high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products, to meet the nutritional needs of the American consumer, to sustain a viable and competitive food and agricultural economy, and to maintain a quality environment and natural resource base.



Seasonal Highlights



Spring arrives with the appearance of woodland wildflowers. Magnolias cloak themselves in fragrant blossoms before their leaves appear. Scilla and miniature daffodils spread forth a lavish carpet in the Court of Honor. Mount Hamilton's slopes are covered with hundreds of azaleas as spring reaches its height. Dogwoods, crabapples, peonies, and roses complete spring's exuberant display.



Summer brings daylilies and crapemyrtles, welcoming the heat of summer with showy, resilient blooms. Herbs grow in harmony with myriad colors, textures, and scents. Waterlily flowers glisten like gems on the Administration Building pond. The prairie blooms in a rich tapestry of color. Meadows undulate in the summer wind.



Autumn leaves begin their subtle color in late October. The palette ranges from the rich yellows of tulip poplar and hickory to the bright red of black gum and the purplish red of sweet gum and dogwood. Spider lilies and native witch-hazels flower as days grow cooler.



Winter brings calm and quiet. Snow and ice transform the gardens into a jeweled landscape. Hollies sparkle with brilliant red berries. Dwarf conifers, boxwood, and Southern magnolias greet the crisp cold with bright green leaves. Winter winds whisper through the leaves and seedheads of ornamental grasses. In February and early March, camellias, Japanese apricots, witch-hazel, winter jasmine, and sweet box bloom defiantly as the days grow warmer.



At any time of year, you'll want to linger in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum and survey a priceless collection of miniature trees. Throughout all seasons, dramatic vistas await you. Make it a point to see the Arboretum's meadows and forests, as well as the Capitol columns.

January-February-early March

Witch-hazels, hollies, dwarf conifers

Late March-early April

Magnolias, spring bulbs

Mid-April

Woodland wildflowers, flowering cherries

Late April-May

Crabapples, dogwoods azaleas, peonies, roses, irises

June-July-August

Daylilies, waterlilies, crapemyrtles, herbs, meadow wildflowers

September-October

Crabapple and viburnum fruits, herbs, meadow wildflowers

November-December

Holly berries, conifers, boxwood





It's Your National Arboretum



The Grounds are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except December 25.



The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except December 25.



Information and educational displays are located in the **Administration Building** which is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on most weekends.



The Arbor House Gift Shop is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from March 1 through mid December.



For information on guided tours, classes, events, and workshops, contact **Education and Visitor Services** at (202) 245-2726.

Want to lend us a hand? For information on the **National Arboretum Volunteer Program**, call (202) 245-4565.

The **Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA)** supports research and educational projects at the Arboretum. For more information, call (202) 544-8733.

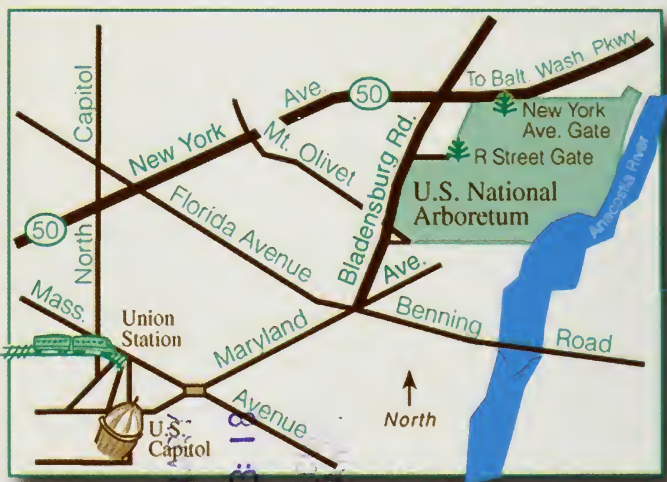
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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Getting to the National Arboretum

The National Arboretum is located in northeast Washington, D.C., off New York Avenue (Route 50) and Bladensburg Road. Gates are located on the New York Avenue service road and on R Street, off Bladensburg Road. Parking is free.

The nearest Metrorail stop is Stadium Armory on the orange and blue lines. Transfer to Metrobus line B2 and get off at R Street. Walk 300 yards down R Street to the entrance gate.



U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-1958
Telephone (202) 245-2726
Fax (202) 245-4575

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/Beltsville/na/>

The U.S. National Arboretum Visitor Guide was written, edited, photographed, designed, and produced by the ARS Information Staff.



Ground Rules

We invite you to discover, enjoy, and learn about the amazing variety of plants. We ask your help in protecting and preserving this national living treasure.

Visitors are expected to abide by the rules posted at the information kiosks and in the Administration Building lobby.



All plants, fish, and wildlife are protected. Do not collect plants, including flowers, leaves, or seeds.



Picnic only in the National Grove of State Trees picnic area. Barbecues, fires, alcoholic beverages, and radios are prohibited.



Ball playing, kite flying, swimming, wading, fishing, skating, and other sports activities are not permitted. Please bicycle on roadways only.



Children under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.



Professional and commercial photography require a permit.



Tree climbing is not allowed.



Obey the 15 mph speed limit. Park in designated spaces and not on the grass.



In garden areas, stay on designated paths.

In case of emergency, contact **Security** at (202) 245-4566 or the information assistant at the Administration Building.



U.S. National Arboretum

Map



Collection



- *Arboretum Introductions*
- *Aquatic Plants*
- *Lobby Exhibits*
- *Auditorium*

Administration Building

Landscape plantings highlight the very best of the National Arboretum plant introductions, while an array of aquatic plants and exotic koi fish flourish in a pool surrounding the building.



- *Japanese Woodland*
- *Asian Valley*
- *China Valley*
- *Korean Hillside*

Asian Collections

This dramatic landscape overlooking the Anacostia River features plants collected from the rich floras of China, Japan, and Korea.



- *Glenn Dale Azalea Hillside*
- *Morrison Garden*
- *Lee Garden*

Azalea Collections

Late April ushers in the most colorful display of azaleas in Washington. Enjoy the landscaped trails that climb to the top of Mount Hamilton and its view of the U.S. Capitol.

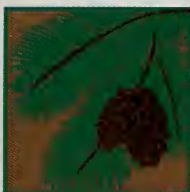


Collection



Capitol Columns

Twenty-two sandstone Corinthian columns that once stood at the east portico of the U.S. Capitol now create a picturesque landmark in the heart of the Arboretum.



Conifer Collections

This outstanding collection of cone-bearing evergreens includes the spectacular Gotelli Collection of Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifers and the extensive Watnong Collection of Dwarf Pines.

- *Gotelli & Watnong Collections*
- *Spruces • Firs*
- *Japanese Maples*



Dogwood Collection

Many exceptional varieties and species of dogwoods are found in this tranquil setting with lovely vistas of the Anacostia River.

- *Anacostia River Overlook*



Friendship Garden

An innovative landscape of perennials abounds with year-round beauty, from the earliest spring bulbs to winter's elegant ornamental grasses.

- *Arbor House*
- *Gift Shop*
- *FONA Office*

Collections Collections Collections Collection



Administration Building

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- Arboretum Introductions
- Aquatic Plants
- Lobby Exhibits
- Auditorium



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- Asian Valley
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- Korean Hillside



Azalea Collections

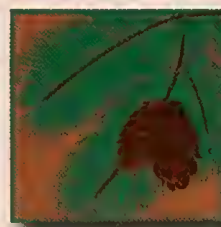
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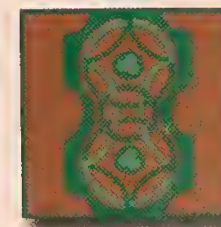
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- Arbor House
- Gift Shop
- FONA Office



Holly and Magnolia Collections

Spring brings clouds of magnolia blossoms to this 10-acre planting. Winter is brilliant with the showy berries and glossy green leaves of holly.



National Herb Garden

This 2-1/2-acre jewel includes 800 kinds of herbs from around the world growing in 10 theme gardens and a cottage garden filled with 200 varieties of heritage roses and their companion plants.

- Historic Roses
- Knot Garden
- Specialty Gardens



National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

Inspired by the design traditions of Japan, China, and North America, this superb collection of artistically trained trees and related artifacts is presented in four distinct pavilions, each complemented by its own meditative garden.

- Japanese, Chinese, American, and International Pavilions • Tropical Conservatory



National Boxwood Collection

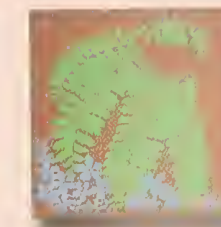
The most complete living collection of boxwoods in the world covers 5 acres and contains over 100 *Buxus* species and varieties.



National Grove of State Trees

Trees representing every state and the District of Columbia are planted in this 30-acre living monument to America's forest resources.

- Picnic Area



Native Plant Collections

Ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees are planted in natural settings representing various habitats of the eastern United States.

- Fern Valley
- Woodland • Prairie
- Southeastern Coastal Plain



Perennial Collections

Formal beds of peonies, irises, and award-winning daylilies bloom exuberantly from late April through July.

- Peonies • Irises
- Daylilies

